

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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July 8, 2003

FROM: KEN A. MILLER, Director
Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Management Division

**SUBJECT: PLANS FOR THE PAVING OF STATE HIGHWAY 173 IN THE LAKE
ARROWHEAD AREA – BARK BEETLE AIR CURTAIN DESTRUCTOR SITE**

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Approve plans for the paving and signage of 1.9 miles of State Highway 173 in the Lake Arrowhead Area in response to the Bark Beetle infestation emergency.
- 2) Approve the use of Environmental Mitigation Funds in the amount of \$159,708 to finance the cost of this project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On May 6, 2003, the Board approved an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service whereby the Forest Service is providing land, at no cost, for the County to operate an Air Curtain Destructor unit in the Burnt Flats area. This unit, which is adjacent to State Highway 173, is needed to dispose of tree waste being generated by the Bark Beetle problem. Prior to this, the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) submitted a permit application to Caltrans for access to the Air Curtain Destructor Site off of the State Highway. As a condition of the permit, Caltrans requires SWMD to maintain this section of State Highway 173 for duration of the operation of the Air Curtain Destructors and has granted permission to SWMD to grade and pave the roadway. The number and type of vehicles expected to utilize the Air Curtain Destructor site necessitates paving of the roadway. The plans for the project consist of placing an asphalt concrete overlay over the existing graded dirt highway.

SWMD will be financing the cost of paving the roadway. SWMD sought bids from a number of Board-approved contractors for the purchase of asphalt concrete materials and paving equipment needed for the project. This resulted in Matich Corporation (in the amount of \$136,548) and William Kanayan Construction of Rim Forest (in the amount of \$23,160) providing the lowest bid for asphalt concrete materials and paving equipment, respectively. The combined cost of the equipment and materials totals \$159,708, which is less than the engineer's estimate of \$172,800. County personnel and equipment will perform the grading and signing work. The project was found to be exempt under CEQA by the Land Use Services Department, and was posted as such by the Clerk of the Board on June 13, 2003.

Recommendation No. 1 is to approve the plans for this project. The plans are on file with SWMD. Recommendation No. 2 is to approve the use of Environmental Mitigation Funds to finance the cost of this project. Per the Department of Public Works Environmental Mitigation Fund Use Policy, proposed projects requesting the use of Environmental Mitigation Fund monies in excess of \$25,000 require approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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REVISED

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Robert L. Jocks on June 25, 2003, and by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on July 3, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The cost of materials and equipment needed to pave this section of State Highway 173 is \$159,708. This cost will be financed by the Department's Environmental Mitigation Fund (Fund-EWD; Dept-SWM; Org-SWM). The cash available in this fund is more than sufficient to pay for the cost of the project.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and concurs with the Department's recommendation because this action is in direct response to the emergency that exists in the local mountains due to the Bark Beetle infestation.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

PRESENTER: Peter H. Wulfman, 386-8703.